



Whidbey Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 490 – 1 NE 4th St - Coupeville, WA 98239 - 360.678.4708 – www.whidbeycd.org

Public Meeting Minutes- DRAFT September 28, 2023; 9:00 AM – 11:42 AM

1 Public Meeting

A regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom with an in-person option at the WICD office (address listed above).

2 Attendance and Quorum

The following Supervisors, being a quorum of the Board, were present:

David Edwards – Chair

Mark Sytsma – Vice Chair

Gary Ketcheson – District Auditor

Jennifer Abermanis – Board Learning & Development Officer

Jessica Aws – Supervisor

Attendees:

Heather McCoy – Executive Director

Robin Buckingham - NRCS

Michelle Maynard – Finance & Operations Manager

David Vliet – WACD

Kelsi Mottet – Senior Natural Resource Planner

3 Call to Order, Welcome

Dave Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Dave welcomed our new WACD NW Area Director David Vliet and everyone introduced themselves.

4 Public Input and/or Comments

(None)

5 Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2023

Motion (1) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the minutes from the August 24 Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

6 Partner Updates

- Robin Buckingham shared NRCS updates including: (1) A few highlights from FY23: approximately \$900k in new obligations for 27 contracts in Island, San Juan, and Skagit counties, bringing a total of 73 active contracts for over \$4.7m to three counties; (2) Upcoming dates for the FY2024 funding round: Applications are due by Friday, 10/20/2023. Eligibility needs to be established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) by Friday, 11/17/2023. Currently, approximately 90 folks have expressed interest in programs, 55 have submitted applications; (3) New funding mechanisms for EQIP (“Act Now” program) are coming soon for high tunnels and planning activities; (4) NRCS will be adopting a new climate smart practice, Combustion System Improvement, for replacing older tractors with more efficient, newer tech. tractors (diesel to diesel).
- Heather McCoy announced that we were awarded the [Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreement](#). This is the proposal that was to be announced in late May; the unexpectedly large number of applications led to a long delay in notification. We were one of 136 nationally, 6 in Washington to receive this award. She will send the Board the proposal so that they can see the scope of work; the scope will be reduced, however, since the funding amount was reduced (\$478,258 awarded of the \$686,145 requested).

7 Financial & Operations Report and Actions

- Financial Report – Michelle Maynard presented and reviewed the August 2023 Financial Report.

Motion (2) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the August 2023 Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

- SCC Livestock TA Award Addendum – Heather presented the addendum for approval.

Motion (3) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Mark Sytsma seconded the approval of the SCC Livestock TA award addendum as presented. Motion passed.

- SCC Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency Program Addendum – Heather outlined the new program and our project, and presented the addendum for approval.

Motion (4) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the SCC Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency Program addendum as presented. Motion passed.

- SCC Natural Resource Investment Program Addendum – Kelsi Mottet presented an overview of WICD’s cost share program. Heather then outlined the NRI addendum.

Motion (5) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Jessica Aws seconded the approval of the SCC NRI Addendum as presented. Motion passed.

- SCC Shellfish Program Addendum – Heather outlined the Shellfish addendum.

Motion (6) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jessica Aws seconded the approval of the SCC Shellfish Addendum as presented. Motion passed.

- Cluster Engineer Contract Revisions – Heather presented a brief overview and history of the contract/partnership. The Board asked questions regarding the new liability language in the document. Michelle will follow up with Enduris to ask our questions and Heather will investigate options for obtaining legal advice. The topic will be revisited in the October Board meeting.

8 Board Business & Actions

- FY2024 Board-led Annual Work Plan tasks – Dave reviewed all FY2024 work plan tasks involving Board participation as task leaders or monitors. Regarding the Board’s continuing education program, a series of topical presentations was discussed. Jennifer Abermanis will meet with Gary Ketcheson and Heather to develop it. It was discussed that these presentations would take place at workshop times separate from Regular Board Meetings. In addition to the work plan ideas, Heather recommended the Board participate in upcoming election events for prospective candidates and volunteer at WICD programs (e.g. Orca Recovery Days events) to represent WICD, share their experiences as Supervisors, and encourage/educate prospective candidates.

- Board Calendar 2024 – Heather presented a list of 2024 dates for upcoming Regular Board Meetings. This list was approved but later discussion in the meeting regarding evening meetings led to the recommendation that the Board revisit meeting and workshop dates and times at the October meeting.

Motion (7) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar. Motion passed.

- NW Area Association Meeting – Heather reminded everyone about the upcoming NW Area Association meeting and took a tally of those planning to participate. She will update the meeting participants on progress made on the HABs workgroup project.

9 District Staff Report

- District Staff Report – Heather answered questions related to the staff report.
- Orca Recovery Day events – Heather reminded everyone of the upcoming events and encouraged Supervisors to volunteer for the Keystone work party (10/10) and Cornet Bay Walking Tour (10/14)

10 Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:42 AM

11 Other, Upcoming Dates and Review of Motions

September 30	Island County Preparedness Fair
October 4	NW Area Association Meeting (hybrid)
October 14	Orca Recovery Day
October 16	WACD Board Work Session

Review of Motions:

Motion (1) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the minutes from the August 24 Regular Board meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (2) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the August 2023 Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (3) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Mark Sytsma seconded the approval of the SCC Livestock TA award addendum as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (4) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the SCC Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency Program addendum as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (5) – Jennifer Abermanis moved and Jessica Aws seconded the approval of the SCC NRI Addendum as presented. Motion passed.

Motion (6) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jessica Aws seconded the approval of the SCC Shellfish Addendum as presented. Motion passed.

**Motion (7) – Gary Ketcheson moved and Jennifer Abermanis seconded the approval of the 2024 Board Meeting Calendar.
Motion passed.**